



BROWN COUNTY  
PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY  
DEPARTMENT

**Our Vision:**

*To provide Brown County municipal, commercial and industrial customers cost-effective and sustainable solid waste management systems with the focus on resource recovery primarily through recycling, repurposing and energy recovery*

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# The Waste Not

## Recycling & Solid Waste Issues in Brown County

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### The Cycle of Recycling

Recently, there has been quite a bit of news coverage about how recycling is no longer profitable and some companies suggest that we should stop recycling and landfill more material.

While it is true that world markets have fallen for most commodities which is reflected in the price the Tri-County Recycling facility is paid for our recycled materials, recycling is still less expensive than landfilling, both in the short-term and in the entire life-cycle of recyclable materials. Tri-County has seen the average price paid for our material drop from a high of \$182/ton in April 2011 to its current level of \$75/ton in June 2015; but, as with all commodities, stocks and bonds, etc., these things do ebb and flow with the global economies. Recycling professionals have seen markets soar to great heights and plummet to sad lows, but always keep focused on the big picture...recycling is, and always has been, an option that offers a sustainable alternative to landfill disposal.

Keep in mind that recycling was never meant to be a free service. In recent years, while recycling commodity markets were near records highs, it has been easy to forget this. When communities recycle they not only provide a resource for businesses to affordably produce new products, but they also avoid the cost, and potential environmental impacts, of landfill disposal. Even with relatively low disposal rates in the United States, a community that recycles 25% of their 10,000 ton per year waste stream has the potential to save \$125,000 per year in disposal fees (assuming an average \$50/ton disposal fee).

Recyclable materials have value, but depending on global commodity markets, there may not be enough revenue to cover the costs for the entire recycling supply chain; a supply chain that starts wherever we produce recyclables and ends at a factory where new goods are made with the recycled materials. From quarter million dollar collection trucks to multi-million dollar processing facilities, getting a #1 plastic bottle from our homes to a company that will spin the plastic into polyester thread has costs.



**Remember, Recycle More...Landfill Less!**

*Excerpted from Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin letter, June 26, 2015*

## Benefits of Recycling

Even though recycling markets have dramatically decreased there are still many benefits to recycling.

- ① Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators - which will allow landfills to have longer lifespans resulting in fewer landfills in our county.
- ① Conserves natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals.
- ① Paper mills in Green Bay and the Fox Valley employ approximately 3,400 workers using more than 600,000 tons per year of recycled paper collected from businesses and households to produce tissue and paper products from recycled fiber.
- ① Reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change - the less we disturb our planet the better.
- ① Helps sustain the environment for future generations.
- ① Provides jobs collecting, sorting and transporting recyclable materials.
- ① Provides manufacturers with raw materials at a lower cost and with less energy than virgin materials.
- ① A 2012 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources study estimated the positive economic impact of recycling in Wisconsin at over \$6 billion.



## Recycling Compactor

In an effort to continually streamline our Recycling Transfer Station hauling operations, Brown County is in the process of installing a compactor to load recyclables into transfer trailers. The compactor will enable Brown County's hauling contractor to carry more recyclables from our recycling transfer station to the Tri-County Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Outagamie County. The compactor will lower overall Brown County Resource Recovery operating costs by increasing the payload from 14 tons per load to 23 tons per load reducing the number of loads carried by approximately 50 percent annually. The savings from fewer loads provides a return on investment (ROI) that is expected to be around four years. In 2014, Brown County hauled nearly 26,000 tons of recyclables to the MRF as part of the 97,000 tons of single stream material that was processed and sold by the Tri-County MRF.










Secondary benefits to Brown County and its customers include reduced material on the tipping floor, reduced wait times for incoming material, and reduced wind blown material from the facility. As part of the expansion, we will be eliminating the residential dumpsters on the outside of the building.

They are being replaced with a garage door for residents to use to drop off recyclables directly into the building saving staff time spent emptying dumpsters.

## A Common Misconception

Did you know that the arrows chasing arrows symbol with a number on the bottom of your water bottle, detergent container, carton of juice, etc. is called a resin code. This symbol does not determine if an item is recyclable. It is a symbol manufacturers use to tell us what kind of plastic the material is.

1 PETE	2 HDPE	3 PVC	4 LDPE	5 PP	6 PS	7 OTHER
polyethylene terephthalate	high-density polyethylene	polyvinyl chloride	low-density polyethylene	polypropylene	polystyrene	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass
soft drink bottles, mineral water, fruit juice containers and cooking oil	milk jugs, cleaning agents, laundry detergents, bleaching agents, shampoo bottles, washing and shower soaps	trays for sweets, fruit, plastic packing (bubble foil) and food foils to wrap the foodstuff	crushed bottles, shopping bags, highly-resistant sacks and most of the wrappings	furniture, consumers, luggage, toys as well as bumpers, lining and external borders of the cars	toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewellery, audio cassettes, CD cases, vending cups	an example of one type is a polycarbonate used for CD production and baby feeding bottles
						

## The Business of Hazardous Waste Disposal

Are you a business that produces Hazardous Waste? If you are, you might already know that as a business you are responsible for disposing of your hazardous waste properly. At the Brown County Hazardous Waste Facility businesses who are considered Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs - any business that generates less than 220 pounds per month of hazardous waste and less than 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste) are able to dispose of their hazardous materials with us. Businesses can have a variety of hazardous waste material, it just depends on what industry your business is in.

The Brown County Hazardous Waste Facility helps businesses in industries such as...

- ✦ Schools
- ✦ Dental Offices
- ✦ Farms
- ✦ Restaurants
- ✦ Veterinarians
- ✦ MORE



It is important to note that when transporting hazardous materials USDOT regulations apply to all waste generators. The Brown County HHW offers competitive disposal pricing without additional mobilization, fuel surcharges, manifests, or energy and security fees often experienced with large hazardous waste contractors.

Please call (920) 492-4964 to set up an appointment!

**BROWN COUNTY  
PORT & RESOURCE  
RECOVERY  
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Follow  
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Recycling

## Shingle Recycling

The wait is over. After months of planning the Brown County Waste Transfer Station is able to accept shingles for recycling. The Waste Transfer Station is open to collect shingles as well as other construction & demolition Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:00 pm and Saturday 7:30 am - 2:00 pm. Clean shingles will be accepted at a rate of \$20 per ton and dirty shingles will be accepted at a rate of \$30 per ton.

## Customer Appreciation Day



**Thank you!**



Waste Transfer Station - 3734 W. Mason Street  
Tuesday, September 15, 2015  
10am - 2pm

Recycling Transfer Station - 2561 S. Broadway  
Wednesday, September 16, 2015  
10am - 2pm

We appreciate your business!

## Materials Recycling Facility Rental Space Available

The Brown County MRF has 11,000 sq. ft. of rental space available at its facility located at 2561 South Broadway in Green Bay. With the removal of our old baler and conveyor, the space is just waiting for a user. The rental space includes offices and a portion of the MRF.

If you know someone interested in this space feel free to contact us at 920-492-4950 for more information.



## Did you know?

*Recycling one ton of paper saves...*

- 17 mature trees
- 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space
- 7000 gallons of water
- 4100 kilowatt hours of energy
- 60 pounds of pollutants